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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/766,348	01/28/2004	Joshua T. Goodman	MS302098.1/MSFTP537US	3293

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EXAMINER

HUYNH, PHUONG

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2857

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/766,348

Applicant(s)

GOODMAN, JOSHUA T.

Examiner

Phuong Huynh

Art Unit

2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 April 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 25 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 25 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-9 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05/28/04&08/26/05.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Goodman et al. (hereinafter "Goodman") (US Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0260922).

Regarding claims 1 and 25, Goodman discloses a computer-implemented system that facilitates maximizing probabilities to effectuate spam filtering comprising:

a data input component that provides one or more types of data for analysis; and an analysis component that analyzes at least one spam email message by employing an iterative scaling function and a least one of a Laplacian prior and a non-Gaussian [see Goodman: Paragraphs [0063], [0073] and [0078]].

Regarding claims 2 and 4, Goodman discloses the iterative scaling function comprises generalized iterative scaling [see Goodman: Paragraphs [0073] and [0074]].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodman et al. (hereinafter "Goodman") (US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0260922) in view of Berger et al. (hereinafter "Berger") (US Patent No. 6,304,841).

Regarding claim 3, Goodman does not disclose "improved iterative scaling."

Berger teaches improved iterative scaling [see Berger: col. 21, lines 39-67].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the invention of Goodman to include the improved iterative scaling, as taught by Berger, to compute the maximum likelihood exponential distribution with the improvement of the convergence and monotonicity of the Generalized Iterative Scaling [see Berger: col. 39, lines 6-18].

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 5-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 5, the combination as claimed wherein "the analysis component employs a plurality of Exponential priors, the plurality of Exponential priors correspond to a plurality of different features, respectively" is not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

Claims 6-8 are also objected as being dependent directly upon claim 5.

Regarding claim 9, the combination as claimed wherein "a maximization component that provides instructions for computing a maximum value, a model component operatively coupled to the maximization component that receives data from at least the maximization component and at least an Exponential prior component; and a probability processing component that employs information collected by the model component to compute one or more values" is not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-2718. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc Hoff can be reached on 571-272-2216. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Phuong Huynh
Examiner
Art Unit 2857

PH
07/19/2006


MARC S. HOFF
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